

The four year annual health survey of Rongelap Atoll, Marshall Islands, who were irradiated in March, 1954 was completed in March, 1958. The survey was transported to Rongelap by Navy LST for the purpose of the survey.

Complete history and physical examinations, including growth and development studies in the children, blood examinations, ova and parasite survey, and whole body counts for body burden of isotopes were carried out. The data are being thoroughly analyzed, and only a few brief preliminary statements can be made at this time in regard to the latest examinations.

The people were found to be in good health and their nutrition satisfactory. A few residual changes were still present in the skin of some people at the former site of the atomic bomb. But these changes were non-symptomatic and consisted of mild atrophy, scarring, and pigment aberrations. No evidence of any pre-malignant or malignant changes have been seen. No regrowth of hair, no further evidences of epilation have been noted. Except for the skin changes there have been no outward evidence of any radiation effects. There have been no symptoms or diseases that could be related to radiation effects. The incidence of diseases was found to be about the same in the irradiated as in the unirradiated Marshallese people used for comparison.

There have been three deaths in the irradiated group. In no case could the cause of death be associated with radiation effects. This incidence of death appears to be about the same as in unexposed Marshallese people.

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unirradiated children, and the blood counts of the children who were irradiated at seven years. However, the numbers are too small to make satisfactory statistical analysis. The data are being analyzed yet.

Hematological studies have shown that the level of the blood have returned to the levels of unirradiated children with the possible exceptions of the lymphocytes and platelets which are still very slightly below the unirradiated levels. In complete recovery appears to be mainly of a hematological nature. There has been no indication of any ill effect associated with the irradiation.

Lack of vital statistics for the irradiated people make it difficult to evaluate some findings. However, fertility does not appear to have been affected. The same number of children have been born of irradiated parents. Pregnancies have been normal with about the same number of miscarriages or stillbirths occurring in both groups. Infants born of in utero irradiation or born of irradiated parents appear normal.

No long-term effects have been noted. No malignancies or leukemia have been observed. No degenerative diseases; no premature aging or shortening of life span; no radiation induced cataracts of the eyes; and no genetic effects have been noted.

The body burden of radioisotopes has declined rapidly, and as of March, 1957 consisted mainly of Cs¹³⁷, I¹³¹, Sr⁹⁰ and Sr⁹⁰ in amounts far below the accepted tolerance levels. The present body burden appears to be slightly increased above last year due to slight environmental con-

amination of their island, but the levels are still believed to be far below tolerance levels. We suffered an unfortunate loss of our recent data on whole body gamma spectroscopy since a returning plane with engine trouble had to jettison this data as well as much equipment. So this important data has not been analyzed. We hope to go back to Rongelap with the steel room to reobtain this data during May.

The people appear quite happy on their home island of Rongelap. They are most pleased with the new village with its fine homes, community buildings, water supply, etc. They seem to be making an excellent adjustment.

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